

Applicants : James C. Rush et al
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Kindly amend claims 1, 6, 20, 23, 24, 25, 27, 29, 45 and 49 to read as follows.

Sub C 1 -1- (Twice Amended)

B4
A post and beam furniture system for partitioning open office space, and the
like, comprising:

a plurality of overhead beams, each having opposite ends;
a plurality of vertical posts, each having a lower portion thereof adapted to be
abuttingly supported on a floor surface of the open office space, an upper portion thereof
adapted to be connected with an associated one of said overhead beams and at least one
outwardly extending flange, having an end face with a single vertical slot extending centrally
therealong;

a plurality of beam-to-post connectors attached to said opposite ends of said
beams, and detachably retained in said slot in said posts for mounting said beams on said
posts; and wherein

said slot has a generally T-shaped cross-sectional configuration with an enlarged
interior track portion and a reduced neck portion which opens outwardly;

said beam-to-post connectors are shaped to be inserted into an open end of said
slot;

said overhead beams each have an uppermost face with a single horizontal slot
extending therealong; and

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(B4 cont'd) said overhead beams each have a lowermost face with a single horizontal slot extending centrally therealong.

Sub C1 -6- (Amended)

B5

A furniture system as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

each of said beam-to-post connectors includes:

an elongate T-shaped central portion attached to one of the ends of an associated one of said beams, and closely received in said slot in said upper portion of an associated one of said posts; and

upper and lower key portions projecting inwardly from said central portion, and being closely received in said slots in said uppermost and lowermost faces of said one beam.

-20- (Amended)

B6

Sub C1 A post and beam furniture system for partitioning open office space, and the like, comprising:

a plurality of overhead beams, each having opposite ends;
a plurality of vertical posts, each having a lower portion thereof adapted to be abuttingly supported on a floor surface of the open office space, an upper portion thereof

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adapted to be connected with an associated one of said overhead beams and at least one outwardly extending flange, having an end face with a single vertical slot extending centrally therealong;

*cont.
C1*
a plurality of beam-to-post connectors attached to said opposite ends of said beams, and detachably retained in said slot in said posts for mounting said beams on said posts, and wherein

said overhead beams each have a lowermost face with a single horizontal slot extending centrally therealong; and

said overhead beams each have an uppermost face with a single horizontal slot extending therealong.

-23- (Amended)

*Br
Subj*
A furniture system as set forth in claim 20, wherein:

said posts include at least one X-post having an X-shaped plan configuration defining four mutually perpendicular outwardly extending flanges, each of which has an end face with one of said slots extending centrally therealong.

-24- (Amended)

A furniture system as set forth in claim 20, wherein:

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*B7
cancel
ant.
C*
said posts include at least one Y-post having a Y-shaped plan configuration defining three regularly spaced apart, outwardly extending flanges, each of which has an end face with one of said slots extending centrally therealong.

-25- (Amended)

A furniture system as set forth in claim 20, wherein:
each of said beams includes opposite side faces, each of which includes a hanger slot extending longitudinally therealong.

B8
-27- (Amended)

Sac 1 A furniture system as set forth in claim 20, wherein:
said posts include hollow bases with adjustable leveling feet telescopingly received therein.

-29- (Amended)

Sub 1 A post and beam furniture system for partitioning open office space, and the like, comprising:
a plurality of overhead beams, each having opposite ends;
a plurality of vertical posts, each having a lower portion thereof adapted to be abuttingly supported on a floor surface of the open office space, an upper portion thereof adapted to be connected with an associated one of said overhead beams and at least one

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*B9
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outwardly extending flange, having an end face with a single vertical slot extending centrally therealong;

*cont.
C1*
a plurality of beam-to-post connectors attached to said opposite ends of said beams, and detachably retained in said slot in said posts for mounting said beams on said posts; and wherein

each of said beams includes integrally formed bosses with open ends at the opposite ends of said beams; and including

fasteners extending laterally through said beam-to-post connectors and retained in the open ends of said bosses to detachably mount said beam-to-post connectors to the opposite ends of said beams.

B10
-45- (Twice Amended)

SAC 1/
In post and beam furniture systems of the type having a plurality of overhead beams, and a plurality of vertical posts, each having a lower portion thereof adapted to be abuttingly supported on a floor surface of the open office space, and an upper portion thereof adapted to be connected with an associated one of said overhead beams, the improvement comprising:

at least one X-post having an X-shaped plan configuration defining four mutually perpendicular, outwardly extending flanges, each of which has an end face with a single vertical slot extending centrally therealong for detachably interconnecting said posts and

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*B1D
and*
said beams in alternative configurations, and for mounting accessories at a variety of different locations; and wherein

*cont.
C1*
each said slot has a generally T-shaped cross-sectional configuration with an enlarged interior track portion and a reduced neck portion which opens outwardly;

said overhead beams each have a lowermost face with a single horizontal slot extending centrally therealong; and wherein

said overhead beams each have an uppermost face with a single horizontal slot extending therealong.

B11
Sub C1
-49- (Amended)

A furniture system as set forth in claim 45, wherein:

each of said beams includes opposite side faces, each of which includes a hanger slot extending longitudinally therealong.

Kindly add the new claims 51-64.

B12
*152 Janus
Sub C1*

-51- (New)

A post and beam furniture system, comprising:

a plurality of beams, each having opposite ends, a lowermost face with a horizontal slot extending centrally therealong and an uppermost face with a horizontal slot extending therealong;

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B12
cont'd

a plurality of vertical posts, each having a lower portion thereof adapted to be abuttingly supported on a floor surface of the open office space, an upper portion thereof adapted to be connected with an associated one of said beams and at least one longitudinal slot extending therealong; and

a plurality of beam-to-post connectors attached to said opposite ends of said beams, and detachably retained in said slot in said posts for mounting said beams on said posts.

1,2 3,4
Cmt C

-52- (New)

A furniture system as set forth in claim 51, wherein:

said posts are adapted to extend vertically to an overhead position and said beams attach to said posts at said overhead position.

1,2 3,4
Jord

-53- (New)

A furniture system as set forth in claim 51, wherein:

each of said beams includes opposite side faces, each of which includes a hanger slot extending longitudinally therealong.

-54- (New)

A furniture system as set forth in claim 53, wherein:

said hanger slot is adapted to support furniture accessories.

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B12
contd

-55- (New)

A furniture system as set forth in claim 54, wherein:
said furniture accessories define whiteboards.

-56- (New)

A furniture system as set forth in claim 54, wherein:
said furniture accessories define lighting.

Cant.
C
Mour
-57- (New)

A furniture system as set forth in claim 29, wherein:
said overhead beams each have an uppermost face with a single horizontal slot
extending therealong.

-58- (New)

A furniture system as set forth in claim 29, wherein:
said overhead beams each have a lowermost face with a single horizontal slot
extending centrally therealong.

-59- (New)

A furniture system as set forth in claim 29, wherein:
each of said beam-to-post connectors includes:

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B12
contd

an elongate T-shaped central portion attached to one of the ends of an associated one of said beams, and closely received in said slot in said upper portion of an associated one of said posts; and

upper and lower key portions projecting inwardly from said central portion, and being closely received in said slots in said uppermost and lowermost faces of said one beam.

-60- (New)

A furniture system as set forth in claim 29, wherein:

each of said beam-to-post connectors includes an outwardly projecting stop which abuts an uppermost end of said one post to locate and retain said one beam at said upper portion of said one post.

-61- (New)

A furniture system as set forth in claim 29, wherein:

said posts include at least one X-post having an X-shaped plan configuration defining four mutually perpendicular outwardly extending flanges, each of which has an end face with one of said slots extending centrally therealong.

-62- (New)

A furniture system as set forth in claim 29, wherein:

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*B12
Cancelled*
said posts include at least one Y-post having a Y-shaped plan configuration defining three regularly spaced apart, outwardly extending flanges, each of which has an end face with one of said slots extending centrally therealong.

*cont.
C1*
-63- (New)

A furniture system as set forth in claim 29, wherein:
each of said beams includes opposite side faces, each of which includes a hanger slot extending longitudinally therealong.

-64- (New)

A furniture system as set forth in claim 63, including:
a plurality of hanging accessories, each having a hook portion thereof shaped to be received and removably retained in said hanger slot.